

KOWI

■ *Kooperationsstelle EU der
Wissenschaftsorganisationen*

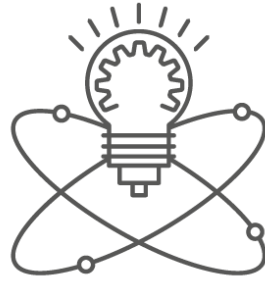


Horizon Europe

*Funding opportunities for early-career researchers
within MSCA: Postdoctoral Fellowships*

23 April 2026, Isabel Herzhoff, KoWi

European Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations



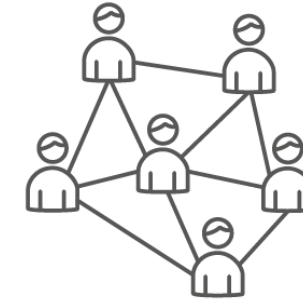
Information, advice & training on EU research & innovation funding

“One-Stop-Shop“ for Horizon Europe



Service platform for our supporting association* focussing on universities

Financed by the German Research Foundation (DFG)



Connected on European level

Offices in Bonn & Brussels

* Association for the Promotion of European and International Cooperation in Science e.V.

Horizon Europe – Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027)

Horizon Europe (2021-2027) — 95,52 Mrd.



Pillar I
Excellent Science — 25,01 Mrd.

European Research Council (ERC) — 16,00 Mrd.

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) — 6,60 Mrd.

Research Infrastructures — 2,41 Mrd.



Pillar II
Global Challenges & Industrial Competitiveness — 53,52 Mrd.

Thematic clusters

1. Health — 8,25 Mrd.

2. Culture, Creativity and inclusive Society — 2,28 Mrd.

3. Civil Security for Society — 1,60 Mrd.

4. Digital, Industry and Space — 15,35 Mrd.

5. Climate, Energy and Mobility — 15,12 Mrd.

6. Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment — 8,95 Mrd.

Non-nuclear direct actions of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) — 1,97 Mrd.



Pillar III
Innovative Europe — 13,60 Mrd.

European Innovation Council (EIC) — 10,11 Mrd.

European Innovation Ecosystems (EIE) — 0,53 Mrd.

European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) — 2,97 Mrd.

Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area — 3,39 Mrd.

Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence — 2,96 Mrd.

Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I System — 0,44 Mrd.

Horizon Europe – Country Categories

- Funding from Horizon Europe
 - EU Member States (MS): including their overseas departments
 - Associated Countries (AC): Albania, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Northern Macedonia, Norway, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Ukraine, Tunisia, Egypt, Faroe Islands, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Canada, New Zealand, South Korea and Japan (all four only pillar 2)
 - Third Countries (TC): selected countries from Asia, Africa and South America
 - Participation without funding from Horizon Europe: further Third Countries e.g. Japan, USA, China, Brasil, etc.
 - Special cases:
 - Lichtenstein: not associated to Horizon Europe
 - Russia and Belarus are barred from participation
- 



Bild: Photo by Kevin Malik, pexels.com

MSCA – Definitions and overall Aims



Pillar I
Excellent Science

European Research Council (ERC)

**Marie Skłodowska-Curie
Actions (MSCA)**

Research Infrastructures

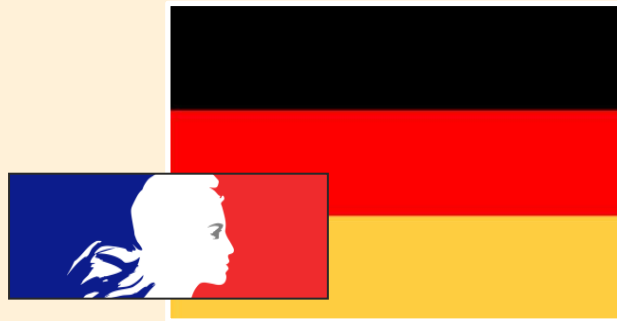
- Doctoral Networks
- Postdoctoral Fellowships
- Staff Exchanges
- Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes (COFUND)
- Choose Europe for Science
- MSCA and Citizens

MSCA - Aims

- Strengthening the European Research Area (ERA)
 - Encouraging people to embark on research careers in Europe
 - Increasing mobility through exchanging staff, knowledge and technology
 - International
 - Interdisciplinary
 - Intersectoral
- „3i dimension“*
- Promotion of researchers' career development
 - Providing training for key competences in science and industry
 - Creating fair and attractive working conditions

MSCA - Mobility Rule

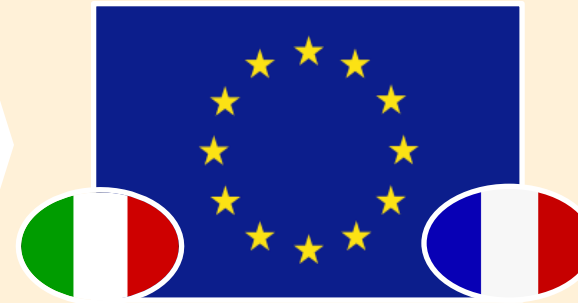
Fellow has lived or worked ≤ 12 months within the last 3 years in the potential host country



A French researcher has lived in Germany for the last 4 years



Not eligible for a Fellowship in Germany!



Eligible for a Fellowship in France and other countries



Bild: Photo by Kampus Production, pexels.com

MSCA – Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)

Postdoctoral Fellowships – Global and European Fellowships

Global Postdoctoral Fellowships



European Postdoctoral Fellowships



European Postdoctoral Fellowship – own project in Europe (MS/AC)

- Eligible
 - Postdoctoral researchers with ≤ 8 years* of full-time postdoctoral research experience, no nationality restriction
 - The application must have reached the quality threshold of 80% for resubmission
- Project duration
 - 1-2 years (optional: Placement of max. 6 months in the non-academic sector in Europe)
- Optional Secondments
 - Worldwide for max. 1/2 of the project duration
- Procedure and contents of the Fellowship:
 - Fellow writes individual application jointly with Host Institution
 - Research & skill training at Host Institution

*Departing from periods outside research and career breaks as well as periods in a TC (only applies to citizens of an EU MS or AC, or "long-term residents").

Global Postdoctoral Fellowship – own project in a Third Country and Europe (MS/AC)

- Eligible:
 - Postdocs with ≤ 8 years* of research experience after PhD (full-time)
 - The proposal must have reached the quality threshold of 80% for resubmission
- Researchers Nationality: MS/AC or at least 5 years of residence in MS/AC ("long-term residents")
- Mobility Rule must be fulfilled for the outgoing phase
- Project duration and possible secondments:
 - 1-2 years in Third Country (Outgoing Phase), at this time secondments for max. $\frac{1}{2}$ possible
 - + 1 year return phase to MS/AC
 - optional +6 months placement in the non-academic sector in Europe
- Procedure and contents of the Fellowship:
 - Fellow writes individual application jointly with Host Institution
 - Research & skill training at Host Institution

*Departing from periods outside research and career breaks as well as periods in a TC (only applies to citizens of an EU MS or AC, or "long-term residents").

Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF) – Who can be your Host Institution?

- Any public or private institution conducting research in or outside Europe
 - Universities
 - Higher Education Institutions
 - Research centers or institutes
 - Industry companies (e.g. SME)
 - Non-profit organisations
 - Governmental organisations
 - International European Interest Organisations (e.g. CERN, EMBL)

How to find host institutions/fellows? – Matchmaking!

- Bottom-up application process (free choice for fellows)
- Use your individual networks
- Use Matchmaking Opportunities :
 - [EURAXESS Germany](#)
 - Matchmaking Platform of [MSCA-Radiance](#)
 - Set up a personal profile on the F&T Portal:
[Partner Search on the F&T Portal](#)

The image shows a screenshot of a job posting on the F&T Portal. The top part of the screenshot displays a job listing from Universitat Pompeu Fabra, posted on 20 January 2025. The job title is "Looking for MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships candidates - Synthetic biology for gene circuits and microbiome engineering". The listing includes details about the funding programme (Horizon Europe - MSCA), the deadline (31 March 2025), and the website (https://santosmorenolab.org/). Below the job listing is a banner for "THE MSCA MATCHMAKING PLATFORM Radiance". The bottom part of the screenshot shows the "EU Funding & Tenders Portal" interface, specifically the "Partner search" section. The search results show 436 items found, with a filter for "Horizon Europe (HORIZON)". A search result for "UNIVERSIDAD DE JAEN" is visible, described as a "Higher or secondary education establishment" located in "JAEN | Spain".

MSCA Funding

In EUR; Funding 100%, in gross	Research unit cost (person/month)					Institutional unit cost (person/month)	
	Living allowance*	Mobility allowance	Family allowance**	Long-term leave allowance	Special-needs allowance	Research, training and networking costs	Management & Overhead costs
Post-doctoral Fellowships	6.350	710	660	7060	Depending on request	1.000	650



Bild: Freepik

MSCA - Evaluation

Evaluation Criteria and Panels

Excellence
(weighting: 50%)

Impact
(weighting: 30%)

Implementation
(weighting: 20%)

8 Main Evaluation Panels

- Chemistry (CHE)
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)
- Economic Sciences (ECO)
- Information Sciences and Engineering (ENG)
- Environment and Geosciences (ENV)
- Life Sciences (LIF)
- Mathematics (MAT)
- Physics (PHY)

MSC Postdoctoral Fellowship proposal – in detail

Part B1 (max. 10 pages)

Excellence
(weighting: 50%)

Impact
(weighting: 30%)

Implementation
(weighting: 20%)

Part B2

4. CV Researcher

5. Capacity of the Participating Organisation(s)
Overview of Participating Organisations

6. Additional ethics information

7. MSCA Green Charter

8. Letter of Commitment (only GF)

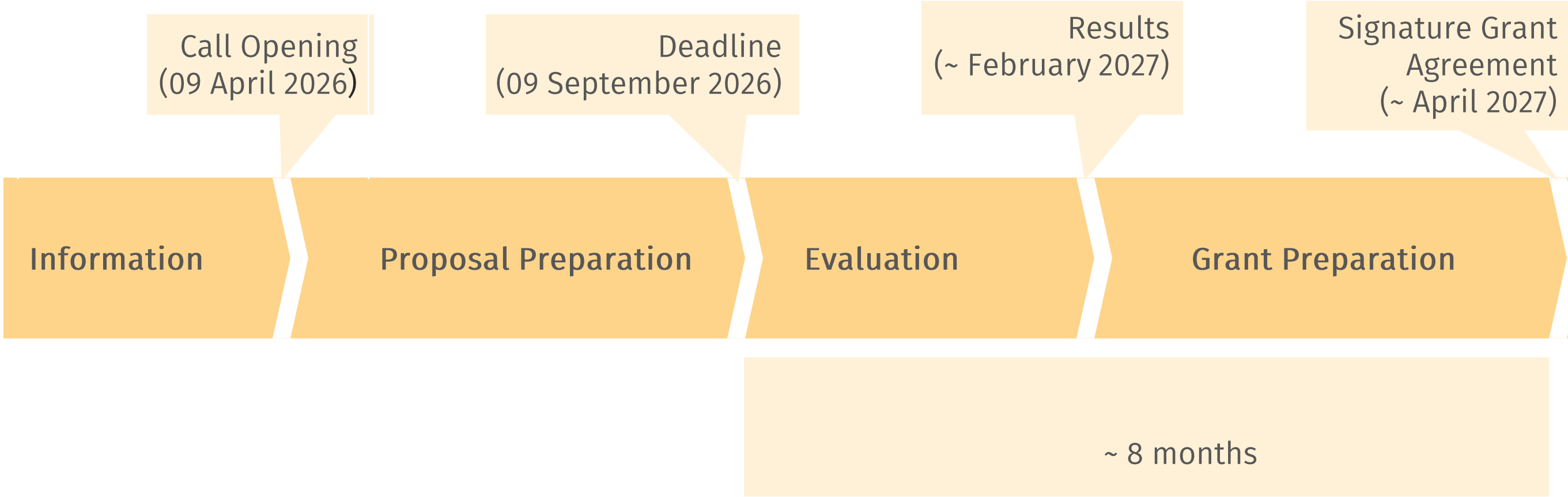
Evaluation Process

- Each proposal will be evaluated by at least three reviewers (selection by European Research Executive Agency)
- Each criterion (Excellence, Implementation, Impact) will be scored from 0 to 5
- If necessary, the panel will determine a ranking for proposals which have been awarded the same score
- 3 phases of evaluation:
 - 1. Individual evaluation
 - Individual evaluation report + comments and points for each criterion
 - 2. Consensus meeting
 - Agreement of the experts + Consensus Report
 - 3. Panel Review
 - Evaluation Summary Reports + Panel Ranked List

Calls for Proposal

<i>Action</i>	<i>Opening</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Budget in €</i>
Postdoctoral Fellowships	09.04.2026	09.09.2026	399,05 Million

Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF) – From Submission to Funding



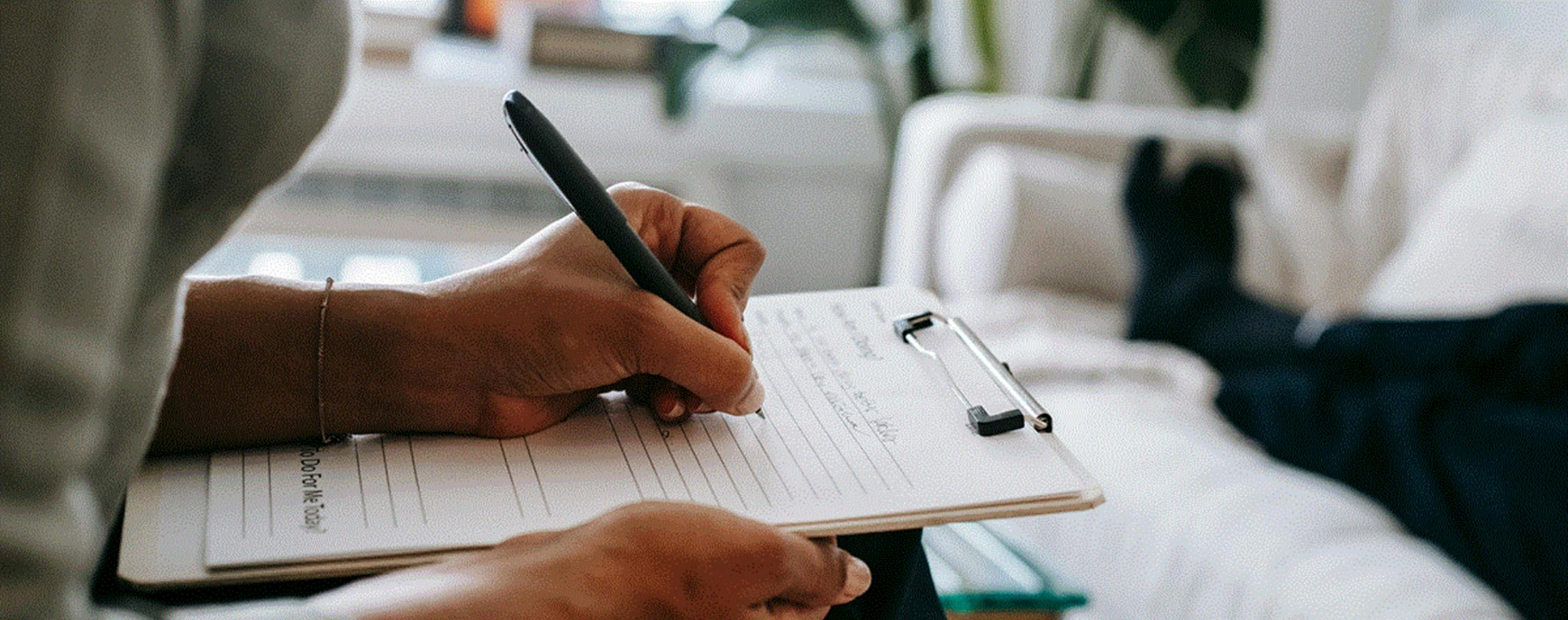


Bild: pexels.com

MSCA - Information and Advice

European Charter for Researcher

- Reference framework by European Commission for:
 - Researchers – call for good scientific practice
 - Supervisors – solid support for early career researchers
 - Institutions as employers – fair working conditions and transparent recruitment
- Guideline for the implementation of MSCAs' political goals:
 - Boosting the attractiveness of research careers
 - Promoting career development
 - Transparency on recruitment process and selection criteria
 - Stability and permanence of employment (work contracts)
 - Strengthening the participation of women in research



Supporting documents

■ [Guidelines on Supervision](#)

- Recommendations for good supervision
Implemented on best-effort basis



■ [ResearchComp: The European Competence Framework for Researchers](#)

- Tool to assess and develop researchers' transferable skills and foster career development



■ [Guidelines on Communication, Dissemination & Exploitation](#)

- Overview and European Commission Tools

■ [Template CDEP](#)

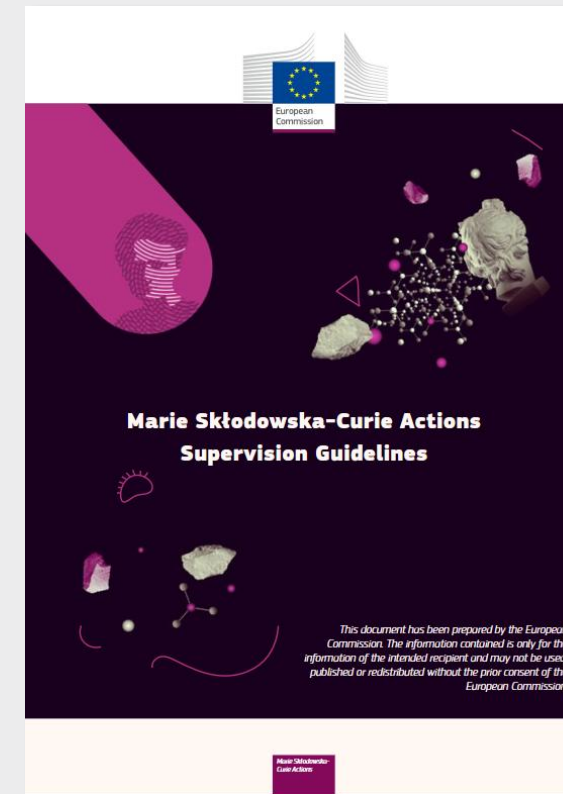


■ MSCA Radiance (former MSCA Net) documents

■ [Handbook](#)



■ [Policy Briefs \(Open Science, Missions, Gender\)](#)



Green Charter – General Principles

- Reduce, reuse and recycle
- Promote green purchasing for project-related materials
- Ensure the sustainability of project events
- Use low-emission modes of transport
- Promote teleconferencing whenever possible
- Use sustainable and renewable forms of energy
- Develop awareness on environmental sustainability
- Share ideas and examples of best practice



Source: European Commission

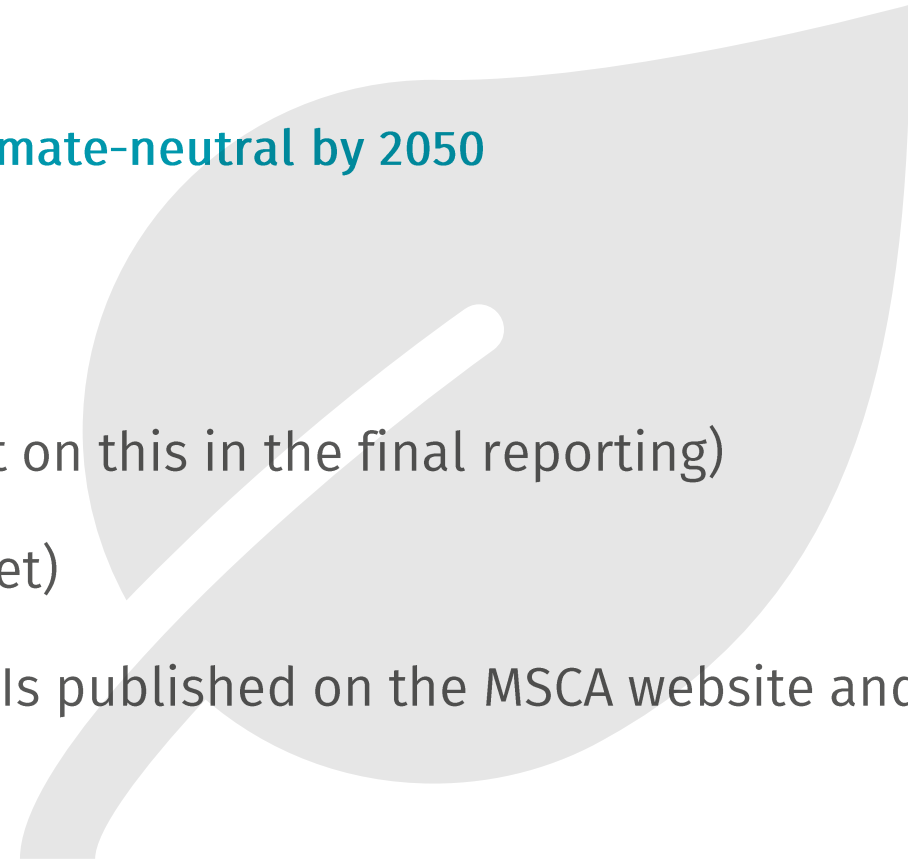


[Green Charter](#)



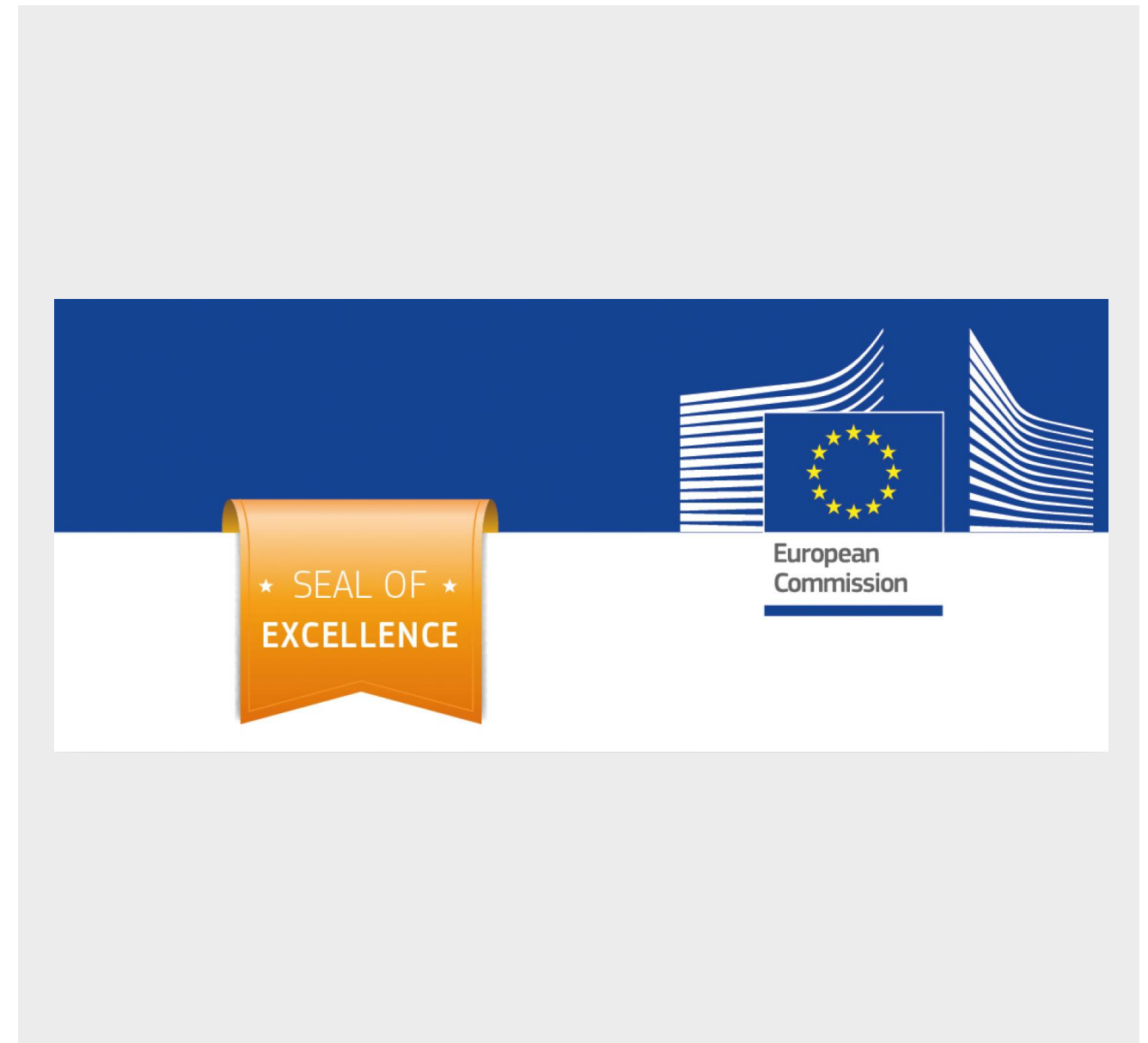
Green Charter

- MSCA will...
 - significantly contribute to promote sustainable research
 - support the European Green Deal > **Europe to become climate-neutral by 2050**
 - support the UN 2030 Agenda
 - support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Should be addressed in the MSCA application (comment on this in the final reporting)
- Implementation on „**best effort basis**“ (not mandatory yet)
- Short document of three pages with recommendations, Is published on the MSCA website and linked in the Guideline for Applicants



Seal of Excellence for MSCA Applicants

- Outstanding projects (with a total score equal to or higher than 85%) that do not receive funding within Horizon Europe due to budget limitations
- Possible sponsors could be public or private at regional, national and / or international level
- [List of funding offers](#)



Important Documents for your Postdoctoral Fellowship proposal

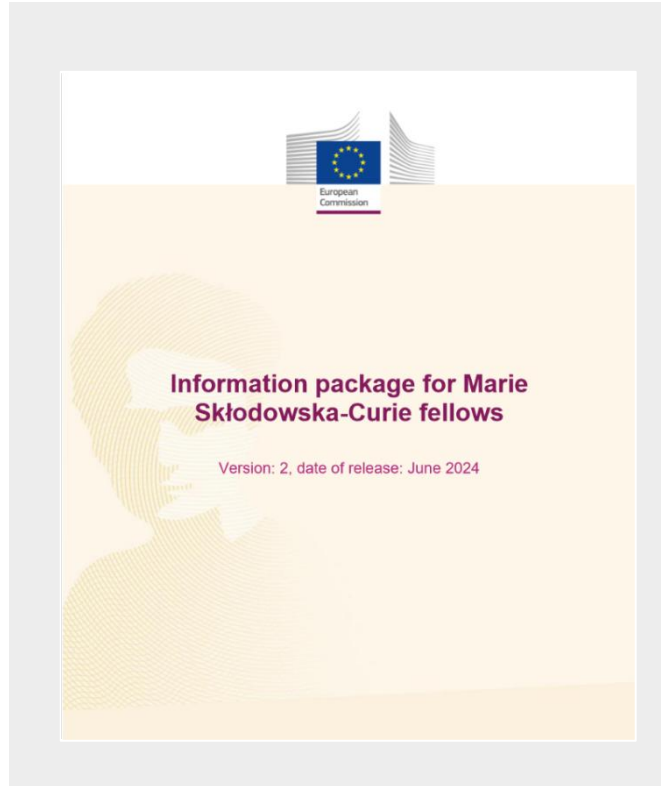
		
<p>Work Programme</p>	<p>Guide for Applicants</p>	<p>Template</p>



[Funding & Tenders Portal:](#)



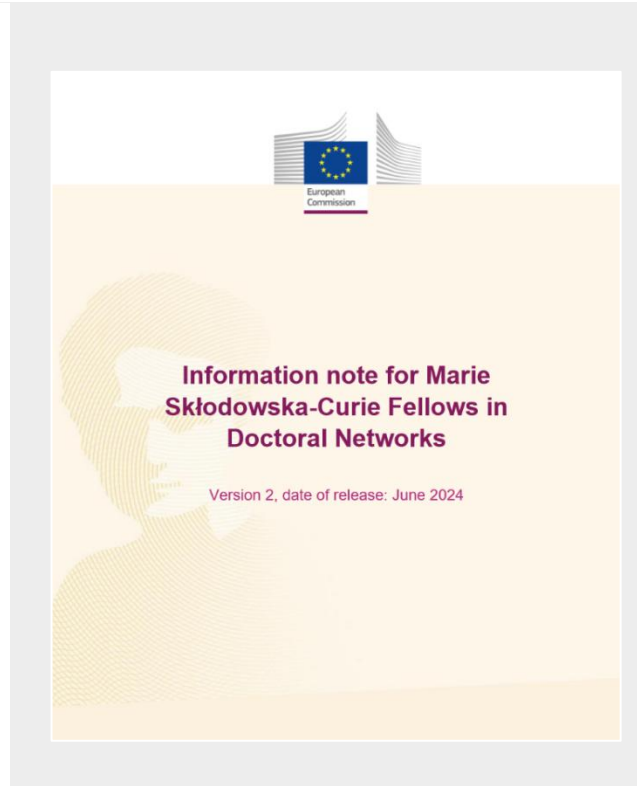
Further information documents



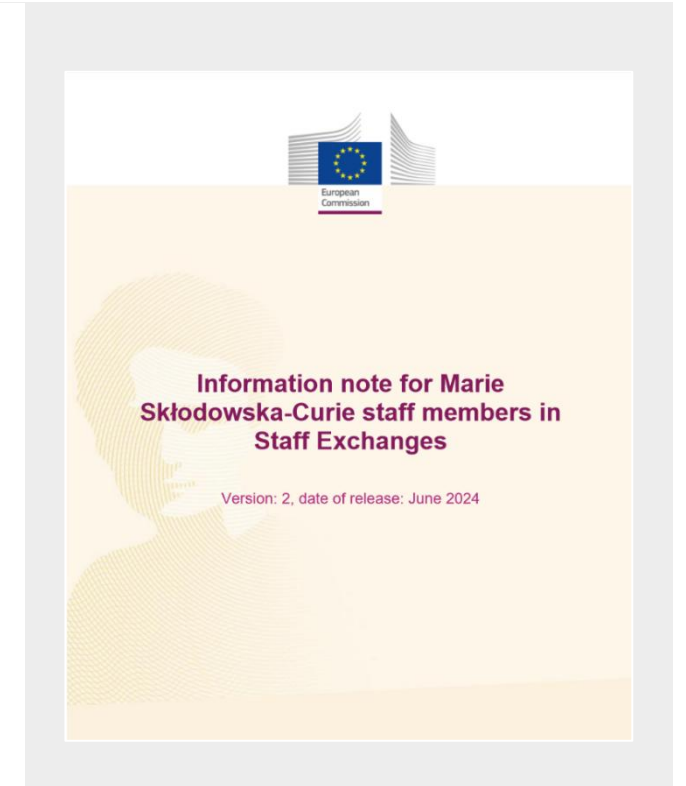
Information package for Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellows



Information note for Marie Skłodowska-Curie DN fellows



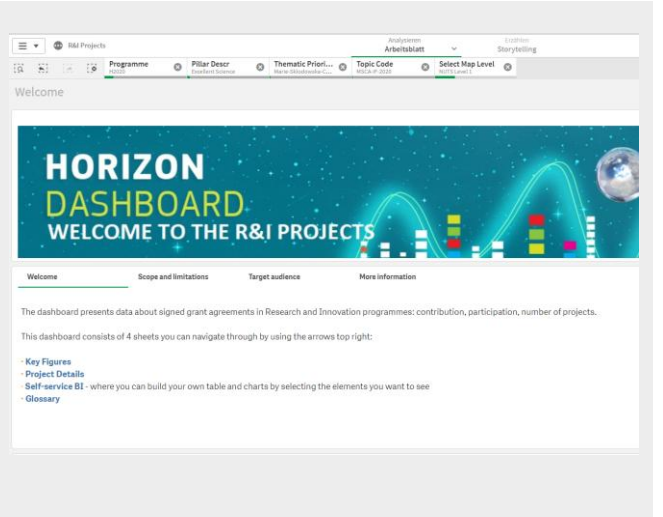
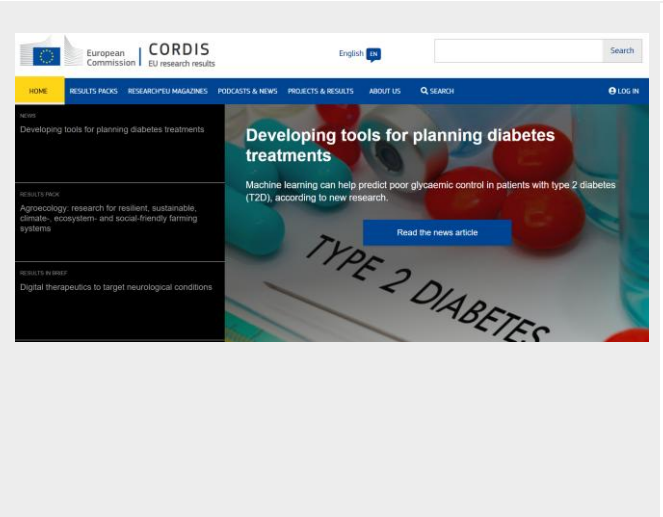
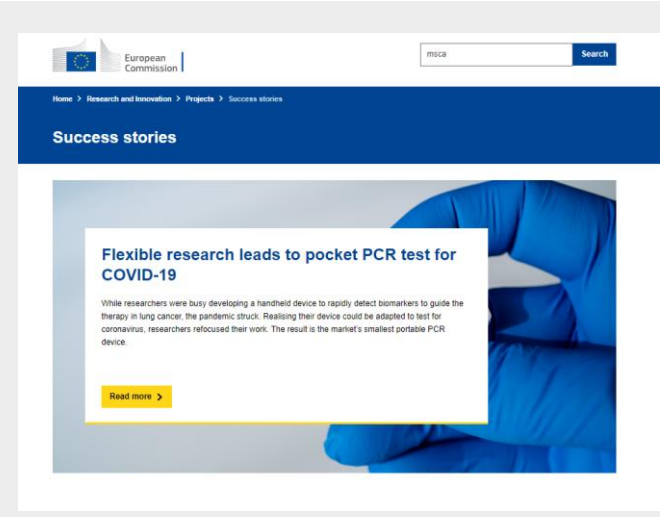
Information note for Marie Skłodowska-Curie COFUND fellows



Information note for Marie Skłodowska-Curie staff members in Staff Exchanges



MSCA Online: Data on funded projects and PIs



Success stories and Horizon Magazine

CORDIS

Horizon Dashboard



[Success stories and Horizon Magazine](#)



[Cordis Website](#)



[Horizon Dashboard](#)



Information online

KOWI
Kooperationsstelle EU der Wissenschaftsorganisationen

Über KoWi Horizon Europe Projektmanagement KoWi-Services de / en

Excellent Science

Home > Horizon Europe > Excellent Science

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

Die Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions gibt es als europäische Mobilitätsmaßnahmen seit 1997. Sie verfolgen das Ziel, die Forschenden in Forschung und Innovation in Europa in qualitativer und quantitativer Weise zu stärken, d.h. die individuelle Karriereentwicklung hin zu innovativen Forschenden zu fördern. Dabei spielt die Mobilität eine zentrale Rolle: es wird internationale, interdisziplinäre und intersektorale Wissenschaft/Projekte gefördert, wodurch individuelle Forschungskompetenzen erweitert und vertieft werden wie auch institutionelle strukturierende Effekte erzielt werden.

Über die gesamte Laufzeit von Horizon Europe (2021-2027) sind die Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions mit einem Budget von 24,9 Mrd. EUR ausgestattet. Die Förderlinien sind für alle Forschungsbereiche offen und fördern Projekte aus der Grundlagenforschung bis hin zur Markterschließung. Man unterscheidet insgesamt fünf spezifische Förderlinien:

[KoWi Website](#)



[Funding & Tenders Portal](#)



[European Commission](#)



[NCP MSCA](#)



MSCA & ERC appointment booking tool & Functional Mailbox

- Book an uncomplicated advisory appointment with our advisors
- Discuss proposals plans, strategic issues or very specific questions
- KoWi advises you as a researcher, EU officer or administrator of a German university or research institution on all MSCA and ERC funding lines
- You can also contact us by phone or email without making an appointment in advance*
- Consultations in German or English every Thursday
- After booking, you will receive a confirmation email with a request for more detailed information regarding your request.



[Book your appointment here:](#)



*If you are interested in a MSCA proposal feedback, please send your proposal to the [MSCA Functional Mailbox](#).

MSCA-Team

virtuell

Buche deinen Termin

Datum und Zeit

Datum & Uhrzeit auswählen

Vollständiger Name

Den vollständigen Namen eingeben

E-Mail

E-Mail eingeben

Telefon

Telefonnummer eingeben

You can find our [privacy policy](#) on our website.

Jetzt buchen

KoWi Services on MSCA & ERC

(For ERC in cooperation with the EU Bureau of the BMBF as National Contact Point for ERC) 

Information

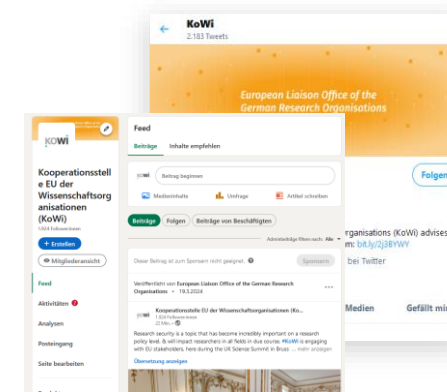
- Information events and workshops
- [KoWi Website](#)
- [KoWi Newsletter](#)

Advice

- Individual advice and support for applicants
- Tailored advice for small groups
- Advice on legal, financial and project management aspects

Training

- Workshops on application and grant management
- ERC Interview trainings + on-site support in Brussels



Social Media

Follow us on [Bluesky](#) and [LinkedIn](#)

Contact Persons **MSCA**

Coordination



Isabel Herzhoff
Head of Team MSCA
PF, COFUND
+49-228-95997-14
isabel.herzhoff@kowi.de

KoWi Team



Dunja Hofmann
DN, PF, SE
+49-228-95997-26
dunja.hofmann@kowi.de



Katharina Spannhake
DN, PF, COFUND
+49-228-95997-17
katharina.spannhake@kowi.de



Sarah Henkel
DN, PF, SE, COFUND, CITIZENS
+49-228-95997-21
sarah.henkel@kowi.de



Cristina Condovici
PF, SE
+49-228-95997-13
cristina.condovici@kowi.de



Byron Schirbock
PF, SE, DN
+49-228-95997-27
byron.schirbock@kowi.de



Laura Willems
PF, DN, CITIZENS
+49-228-95997-23
laura.willems@kowi.de



Team Project Management
Sebastian Claus
Yvette Gafinen
Eva Damm
Sarah Henkel

Contact Persons **ERC**

Coordination



Isabel Herzhoff
Head of Team ERC
+49-228-95997-14
isabel.herzhoff@kowi.de

KoWi Team



Cristina Condovici
ERC (NCP)
+49-228-95997-13
cristina.condovici@kowi.de



Martin Winger
ERC (NCP)
+32-2-54802-21
martin.winger@kowi.de



Dunja Hofmann
ERC (NCP)
+49-228-95997-26
dunja.hofmann@kowi.de



Byron Schirbock
ERC (NCP)
+49-228-95997-27
byron.schirbock@kowi.de



Katharina Spannhake
ERC (NCP)
+49-228-95997-17
katharina.spannhake@kowi.de



Team Project management
Sebastian Claus
Yvette Gafinen
Ella Ostermüller
Sarah Henkel



**National Contact Point (NCP)
for the European Research
Council (ERC)**
in cooperation with the EU
Bureau of the BMBF

Contacts: www.nks-erc.de

The logo for KOWi, featuring the word "KOWi" in a bold, sans-serif font. The "i" has a small blue square above it. The "K" and "O" are in a lighter grey, while "W" and "i" are in a darker grey.

■ *Kooperationsstelle EU der
Wissenschaftsorganisationen*

Website | Social Media | Podcast | Corporate Video:
www.kowi.de/en

Isabel Herzhoff

Head of Team ERC & MSCA

Isabel.Herzhoff@kowi.de

Tel +49-(0)228-95997-14